Manitoba
Natural Resources
Parks

interim management guidelines

CLEARWATER LAKE

provincial park

INTERIM MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

FOR

CLEARWATER LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK

MARCH 1986

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This document contains guidelines for management and development for that period until a Management Plan is completed for Clearwater Lake Provincial Park. A cautious approach is taken to preserve resources and future use options for the area. Land use changes proposed are based on existing documentation of natural resource values and recreational needs.

This document is subject to annual review or at more frequent intervals determined at the discretion of the Assistant Deputy Minister.

Approved: _____

Derek Boyle,
Assistant Deputy Minister

Dated: March 3/86.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Clearwater Lake Provincial Park is located 25 kilometers north of The Pas. The park is accessible by highway, rail and air transportation routes. Recreational facilities include three campgrounds, three picnic areas, three lodges, and 349 cottages.

Clearwater Lake comprises almost half of the 596 square kilometer park (59,570 hectares). The lake has been rated as one of the best road accessible lake trout waterbodies in Manitoba. The quality sport fishery combined with the aesthetic values of the crystal blue water and scenic sunsets creates an attractive destination point for recreationalists from within and outside of Manitoba.

Clearwater Lake is classified a Provincial Natural Park. The park represents a scenic natural land and water based landscape which provides visitors with a range of outdoor recreational opportunities. Limited resource harvesting activities occur in the park also.

Clearwater Lake Provincial Park is receiving increased consumptive and nonconsumptive uses of its natural resources. Heavy year-round angling has raised concern about the status of the lake trout population. There are also concerns about water quality since any deterioration of water quality would adversely affect the trout fishery as well as the lake's image.

The effects of forestry operations in the park require evaluation to ensure long-range recreational goals are not compromised.

Increasing year-round and peak-season use of recreational facilities indicates the need to review facilities and services with a view to setting future upgrading and development priorities.

In the interim period until a Management Plan is prepared for Clearwater Lake Provincial Park, the Parks Branch has established management guidelines for resource conservation and protection, improvement and development of recreational facilities and the ongoing commercial use of the park's resources. The guidelines have been developed on the basis of present information and existing land use priorities. They may be revised periodically as additional information becomes available or as needs not presently anticipated are identified. These Interim Management Guidelines determine the limits for park development and use prior to completion of a Management Plan.

It is noteworthy that certain park facilities, particularly the winter recreation area, have been developed largely through the initiative and co-operation of local groups and individuals. Similar types of "co-operating activities" will be encouraged where appropriate for facilities and programs proposed within these guidelines.

The following section presents a brief description of the role and purpose of Clearwater within the Provincial Park System, it identifies current park issues and concerns, and describes the management guidelines. A list of objectives set targets to be achieved by the guidelines.

2.0 ROLE/PURPOSE OF CLEARWATER LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK

The five precepts below describe the role of Clearwater in the Provincial Park System. Clearwater Lake Provincial Park will:

1) **Conserve superb water orientated recreational opportunities and primary resource values of water quality and the lake trout fishery.**

2) **Continue to meet resort demands, particularly from the region, within the established capacity of the resource base.**

3) **Provide onshore opportunities and lakescape management to maintain geological interpretive opportunities and unspoiled lake vistas.**

4) **Provide a range of winter outdoor recreational facilities for casual use and competitive sports events.**

5) **Accommodate commercial resource use compatible with high recreational values.**

3.0 ISSUES AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Issues requiring resolution in the short term are discussed under the headings of Natural Resources, Recreation, Operations and Maintenance and Resource Use. The characteristics of the resource base along with current levels of visitor use have created a need to establish objectives and guidelines to manage and develop Clearwater Lake Provincial Park.

There are also a number of activities and practices which are not classified as issues but require clarification of the management practices and interim direction. These land uses are reviewed under Topics for Discussion (Section 3.6).

3.1 Natural Resources

3.1.1 Fisheries and Water Quality

Clearwater Lake has a provincially significant lake trout fishery which is subject to heavy angling pressure. In addition, Clearwater is a source of fish spawn for stocking and export. Concerns have been raised by both the public and resource managers about the effects of over-fishing. A complete review of the status of the lake trout population is ongoing. The results of this study will be reflected in management objectives for the lake trout fishery.

Maintenance of the lake's water quality is essential for survival of the lake trout. Efforts to prevent pollution from sewage leakages, boats and public litter will be a management priority.

The annual Spring run of Suckers at Jackfish Creek is a local visitor attraction. Concern has been expressed

about the limited parking space, litter, lack of recreational facilities, and absence of on-site interpretive signing.

3.1.2 Wildlife

Clearwater Lake Provincial Park has a number of sensitive habitats, most notably woodland caribou range and a colonial nesting bird area on Cormorant Rock. These significant areas require protection through proper management and zoning practices.

3.2 Recreation

(See Figure 1, Existing Recreational Facilities.)

3.2.1 Camping

Visitor surveys indicate public demands for improved campsites and modern facilities. Upgrading and modernizing of facilities will vary among each of the park's three campgrounds.

Camper's Cove, with 49 unserviced transient sites and 12 seasonal sites is the most popular campground. Modernization of such facilities as washrooms and provision of showers are considered the most important improvements for transient and destination visitors.

Pioneer Bay provides 17 seasonal camping sites and a day-use picnicking and beach area. The site is not attracting a significant amount of day use, therefore, consideration will be given to establishing a walk-in tent camping opportunity at this site.

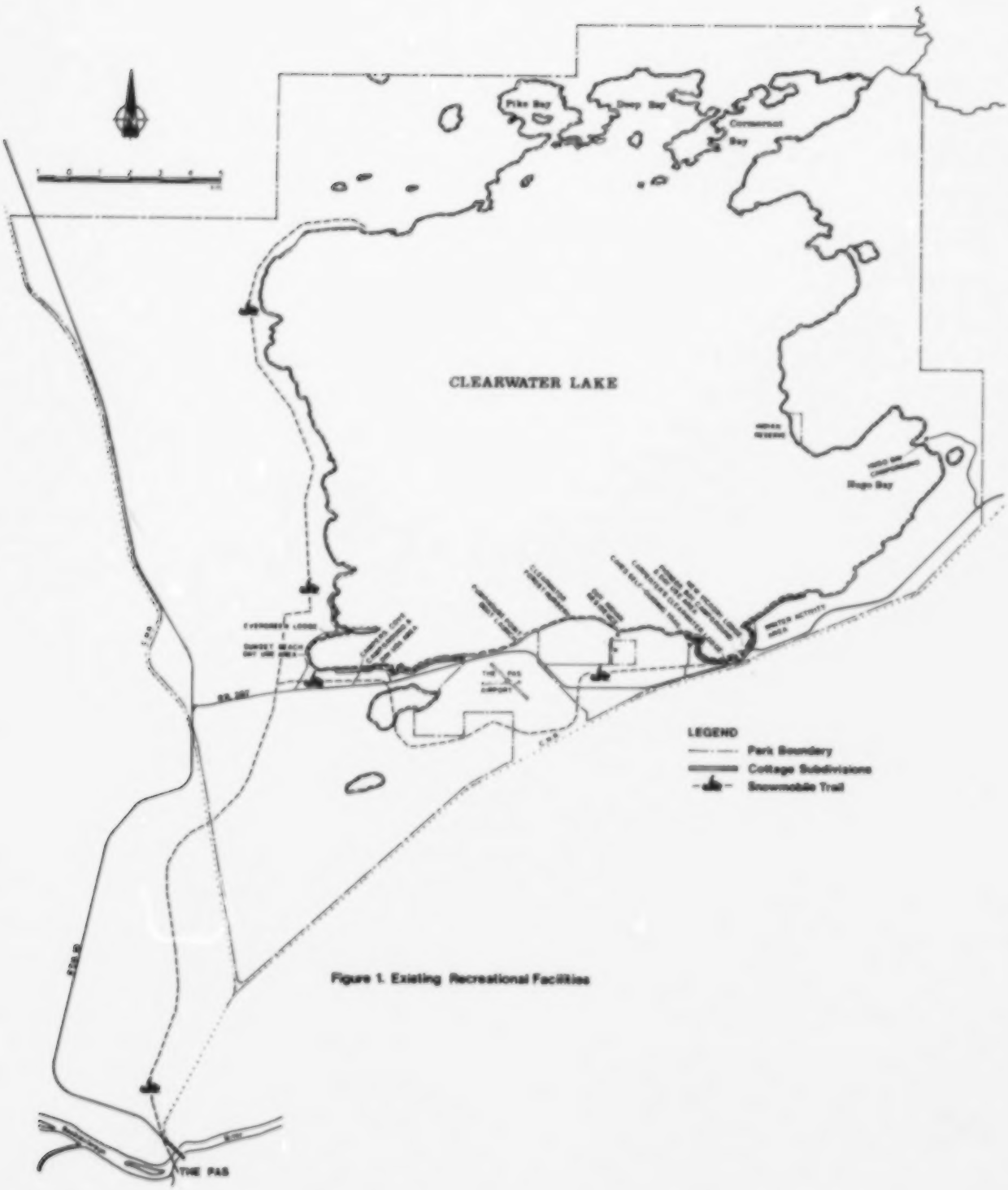


Figure 1. Existing Recreational Facilities

Hugo Bay campground was last operated during the 1983 season. Although the facilities are modern, this site has attracted very little use, for a variety of reasons. Alternative management options, such as privatization, should be explored to make effective use of Hugo Bay.

3.2.2 Day Use

A number of day-use areas exist along the south shore of Clearwater Lake. These sites are used for boat launching, swimming and picnicking. Vehicle congestion is experienced during peak use periods due to the linear nature of these sites.

3.2.3 Group Use

The existing boy scout and girl guide sites are meeting current demand for permanent group-use facilities. Requests have been received for short-term transient group-use sites.

3.2.4 Trails

Public demand for designated trails is evidenced by the popularity of the Caves Self-Guiding Trail and the cross-country ski and snowmobile trails. The park offers a variety of scenic terrain, vegetation and vistas which allow for development of high quality summer and winter trail systems. Off-road vehicle use in the form of all-terrain cycles is occurring along park roads and trails.

3.2.5 Visitor Information

Greater public awareness of the significance of the park's water resources and sport fishery is considered

to be important in the long-term management of these resources.

There is also a need to improve the availability and quality of promotional information on the park. Clearwater could play a role in a promotional scheme for northern parks by improving the entrance pull-off at the junction of P.T.H. 10 and P.R. 287. This facility is not effective at present.

3.2.6 Federal Lands

Two parcels of Federal land exist within the boundaries of Clearwater Lake Provincial Park. Both The Pas Airport and the Stoney Point Indian Reserve are legally excluded from provincial park jurisdiction.

The Guy Hill Indian School site was formerly Federal land. It has recently been purchased by the Province and is now included within the park.

Existing and future land use proposals for these Federal parcels should be compatible with the park's natural, cultural, and recreational values.

3.3 Operations and Maintenance

A number of operations and maintenance issues can be addressed and improved over the short term. The park's maintenance yard requires upgrading to improve its appearance. Improvements to the quality of internal signing and the establishment of a systematic approach to road maintenance are also required.

Enforcement of regulations on privately owned lands has not occurred on a regular basis, resulting in deteriorated standards. Regulations should be enforced to avoid run-down conditions throughout the park over the long term.

Winter ice fishing shacks are being left along the shore and used occasionally during the summer season. This activity has the potential to become a serious concern.

3.4 Fishing Lodges

The three fishing lodges along the south shore provide fixed-roof accommodations for park visitors. The lodges cater to fishermen and hunters primarily from Canada and the United States. Two of the three lodges operate year-round. Upgrading of present facilities and services should be encouraged to meet public expectations. A review of lodge capacities and expansion opportunities should be undertaken.

3.5 Forestry

There are three timber sale areas within Clearwater Lake Provincial Park. Portions of the cutting areas are located amidst high use recreational facilities which creates the potential for land use conflicts. Since the park's land base is limited, caution must be used in the management of timber berths and cutting practices.

Dwarf mistletoe is evident on many spruce trees throughout the built-up areas of the park. This disease causes clumping and eventual death, thereby reducing aesthetics and creating a public safety concern. Management techniques are necessary to control dwarf mistletoe in built-up areas.

The recently developed Provincial Nursery and Manitoba Forestry Association site provide opportunities for public enjoyment through tours and related educational programs. Programs to enhance public understanding and appreciation of these facilities will be encouraged.

3.6 Topics for Discussion

Certain activities will require analysis and direction at a future date but for the interim period until a Management Plan is completed existing management practices will continue. Accepted land uses and activities within the park include:

1) Hunting - recreational sport hunting is currently permitted in all park areas except within a designated built-up zone along the south shoreline. The designated built-up area will continue to be a restricted hunting zone and hunting will be permitted throughout the remainder of the park.

2) Trapping - there are currently four trappers operating in the park. Trapping has occurred since the park was designated with no apparent conflict with other users. The existing number of trappers and limits will be retained. No increase in trapline numbers will be permitted but reassignment will be allowed with the approval of Parks Branch and Wildlife Branch.

3) Scientific Research - the park's unique natural resource base attracts some scientific interest. In order to protect the integrity of the natural resources, all scientific research requests will continue to be reviewed by Parks Branch before permits are issued.

Scientific research will be encouraged on lake trout and the determination of the potential effects of acid rain (originating from smelting operations at Flin Flon) on water quality.

4) Cottaging - the majority of the 349 cottages are on lake-front lots along the south shore. Cottaging is a recognized land use in the park. Additional crown land or private land subdivision will not be permitted, however, because of environmental concerns associated with the lake trout and water quality. The matter of permanent occupancy of cottages is an issue of concern. It is beyond the scope of this document to resolve.

5) Mining - mineral exploration and claim staking occur infrequently throughout the park. Parks Branch will pre-clear all resource exploration and extraction applications to ensure environmental and recreational impacts are minimized.

6) Cultural Resources - cultural features within the park have not been formally documented. Should any developments be proposed that could impact cultural resources an impact assessment would be conducted.

In order to fulfill the education and interpretive mandate for the park a cultural theme study will be undertaken as work schedules permit. Short-term emphasis will continue to be placed on providing visitors with information relating to natural features.

4.0 OBJECTIVES

A series of objectives for resource protection, management and recreational use have been prepared. The objectives are derived from a consideration of park purpose, current use and issues and concerns.

4.1 Natural Resources

4.1.2 Fisheries and Water Quality

1) To maintain the physical and chemical properties of Clearwater Lake.

2) To conserve a provincially significant lake trout population.

3) To initiate a public awareness program relating to the natural significance and sensitivity of Clearwater Lake and the lake trout fishery.

4) To develop the education-conservation potential of Jackfish Creek centred on fish spawning and habitat protection.

4.1.3 Wildlife

1) To protect sensitive wildlife habitats and related viewing opportunities.

4.2 Recreation

4.2.1 Camping and Day Use

1) To identify priority upgrading of facilities and new service requirements.

2) To evaluate the need for day-use site redevelopment and expansion.

3) To establish campground functions and capacities to reflect existing and projected demand.

4.2.2 Group Use

1) To identify transient group use sites for institutional outdoor education and environmental research groups.

2) To develop a Parks/Forestry interpretive trail and associated facilities in the vicinity of the Provincial Nursery.

3) To identify options for joint conservation-education programming with the Manitobe Forestry Association.

4.2.3 Trails

1) To develop a hiking trail along the east shore of Clear-water Lake.

2) To provide designated areas/routes for the use of all-terrain cycles.

3) To maintain the existing snowmobile trail system.

4) To expand the cross-country ski trail system.

5) To improve and expand facilities at the winter recreation centre.

4.2.4 Visitor Information

1) To improve the visitor orientation facilities at the P.T.H. 10 pull-off site.

2) To develop additional visitor information facilities for the park.

3) To work co-operatively with the Ministry of Transportation to produce a plan for public information and/or a display at The Pas Airport.

4) To maintain effective communication with The Pas Band concerning development of the Stoney Point Indian Reserve.

4.3 Operation and Maintenance

1) To standardize enforcement procedures to ensure compliance with park regulations.

2) To landscape and screen from view the Prospector maintenance compound.

3) To improve internal park signing.

4) To upgrade existing park access roads.

4.4 Fishing Lodges

1) To determine lake and shoreline capacities as a basis for evaluating commercial lodge development and expansion proposals.

2) To encourage lodge facility upgrading within existing accommodation capacities.

4.5 Forestry

1) To accommodate existing timber sales where these are consistent with recreational objectives.

2) To encourage reforestation projects in conjunction with the Provincial Nursery.

3) To undertake forest stand improvement programs adjacent to built-up areas.

5.0 GUIDELINES

5.1 Natural and Cultural Resources

Guidelines presented here relate primarily to fisheries and water quality. These are the critical resource values of Clearwater Lake Provincial Park.

5.1.1 Fisheries and Water Quality

Clearwater Lake has a long fishing history. Commercial fishing was carried on during the winter season from 1931 to 1944. The harvest of spawn from whitefish and lake trout started in 1956 and continues to the present. The eggs are used by Fisheries Branch for stocking Manitoba waters and have been traded with other provinces and states for eggs and fry of other species not available in Manitoba. Sport fishing has been popular during both the summer and winter seasons for many decades. The high angler success rate and number of trophy lake trout have combined with a scenic natural landscape to create one of the most popular fishing lakes in Manitoba. Concern expressed by various recreational user groups over the status of trout stocks and the exploitation of trophy size fish stocks prompted Fisheries Branch to assess the status of the lake trout population in Clearwater Lake. The quality of the water and sport fishing are directly linked and will have to be closely monitored to ensure that Clearwater Lake's image is not diminished.

The lake trout fishery is dependent upon conditions associated with oligotrophic lakes where water is clear and cold. Any changes in the quality of water could adversely affect the sensitive nature of the trout fishery.

Guidelines:

1) Consistent with sport fishing objectives, water quality will be monitored on a regular basis by Environmental Control Services of the Department of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health.

2) The Parks Branch work permit procedure will establish detailed operational guidelines to ensure that commercial activities, such as forestry, mineral exploration and development do not adversely impact the fisheries resource.

3) In order to monitor pollution sources a regular inspection/ monitoring program by Health Inspectors will be encouraged to ensure effluent regulations are being adhered to. The necessary upgrading of sewage standards will be made as required.

4) A moratorium will be maintained on all new or expanded recreational developments.

A review of available fisheries data and recreational capacity methodologies supports the above moratorium. The estimated maximum sustainable angling yield for lake trout is between 14,000 to 22,000 kilograms annually. A 1970 creel census estimated angler harvest to be 12,700 kilograms for the open water period.[1]

In the 14 years since the 1970 creel census, angling pressures have increased, fishing techniques have improved and winter fishing has gained popularity. It would appear that

1 Leroux, D. An assessment of the Lake Trout Stock in Clearwater Lake, 1979. M.S. Report #83-33. 1983.

these factors have combined to produce an annual maximum sustained angling yield in excess of or in the upper range of the maximum limit of 22,000 kilograms annually.

Three different capacity calculations have been used to compare the existing level of development with the development capacity of Clearwater Lake.[2] These calculations, shown below, indicate that current use levels are approaching capacity, at least for two of the three methods used.

Methodology	Allowable User Days/Year	*Development Status
Shoreland Capacity	480,973	73.8% of capacity
Boat Limit	281,088	26.0% overdeveloped
Water Quality Index	356,735	99.6% of capacity

* Existing use = 355,173 user days/year.

Creel census data and recreational capacity calculations support extreme caution with regard to additional development that would increase user-days of recreation on Clearwater Lake.

Guidelines:

1) **Additional development that increases the number of user-days per annum on Clearwater Lake will not be permitted. This guideline statement will be reassessed when updated creel census data is available.**

2 Unpublished Report. A Review of Methodologies to Determine the Development Capacity of a Lake. March, 1979.

2) More direct control of fish harvest will be implemented should the catch per unit effort decline or the status of stocks raise concern. One or more of the following approaches will be considered:

   a) allocating specific poundage and/or number of fish harvest limits to lodges

   b) setting specific annual limits to park users

   c) reducing seasons

   d) banning the use of fish locators

3) Lake trout spawn will be taken based on Fisheries Branch recommendations. This program will be evaluated on a continuing basis.

4) Parks, Regional Services, Fisheries and Tourism Branches will conduct an awareness program with lodge operators to ensure facility standards, capacities and fishing limits are understood and adhered to.

5) Public information concerning the significance and sensitivity of the lake trout fishery will be developed by Fisheries Branch. Information will be displayed at park centres and The Pas Airport.

6) Within existing enforcement programs, opportunities to inform and educate the public about the importance of the lake trout fishery should be undertaken.

7) **Future research will be conducted jointly by Parks Branch and Fisheries Branch on an as required basis ensuring data is available upon which sound fishery management decisions can be made.**

8) **A commercial fishery for lake trout will not be entertained on Clearwater Lake.**

9) **All stream crossing, including Jackfish Creek, shall meet standards set forth in the Provincial Stream Crossing Guidelines.**

10) **Information and recreational facilities focusing on the fish spawning and habitat protection at Jackfish Creek will be developed jointly by Fisheries Branch and Parks Branch.**

In spite of the restriction on additional development, continued angling pressure may eventually reduce the catch per unit effort. In an attempt to diversify the fishing opportunities in the Clearwater Lake area dugouts adjacent to P.T.H. 10 have been stocked with rainbow and speckled trout.

Guidelines:

1) **A stocking program in dugouts located in Clearwater Lake Provincial Park will be continued and expanded.**

2) **Information on alternate angling opportunities for walleye and northern pike at Cormorant Lake, Rocky Lake and the Saskatchewan River will be made available.**

5.1.2 Wildlife

Although the lake trout fishery and water quality are of prime importance in Clearwater Lake Provincial Park there are also a number of wildlife values to be protected. The northern section of the park is used as a partial range by a herd of woodland caribou and a colonial bird nesting area is located on Cormorant Rock near Ingraham Island.

Guidelines:

1) **Known caribou range will be protected to ensure that arboreal and ground lichen, primary food sources for caribou, are not impacted by recreational development or commercial operations.**

2) **Colonial bird nesting colonies are extremely susceptible to human disturbance, consequently steps will be taken to ensure the viability of the colony. Management will include regulatory signing to restrict public access during the nesting period. Recreational developments will not be permitted.**

3) **Wildlife viewing programs will be considered where opportunities are available (e.g. Guy Hill/Caves area).**

5.2 Recreation

5.2.1 Camping

Visitor use levels over the past five years indicate that the existing supply of transient campsites is satisfying current demand. From 1980 to 1984 transient camping use at Camper's Cove has fluctuated slightly. The average total

number of unit-days recorded was 1,897. The 1983 overall occupancy rate for 37 transient sites at Camper's Cove was 33% with a weekend rate of 47%. Hugo Bay Campground operated from 1980 to 1983. During this period the total number of unit-days per season averaged 573. Due to a very low occupancy rate the Hugo Bay Campground was not operated in 1984.

Camping statistics reveal that the demand for seasonal campsites is being met at Camper's Cove and Pioneer Bay. The level of seasonal camping use at Camper's Cove and Pioneer Bay has not changed significantly from 1980 to 1984. During this five-year period a total of 12 sites have been allocated at Camper's Cove generating an average of 1,690 unit-days per season. Seasonal sites occupied at Pioneer Bay range from 11 in 1984 to 17 in 1982. The average number of unit-days per season generated at Pioneer Bay was 1,880.

All camping facilities, with the exception of Hugo Bay, are non-modern. Visitor use surveys indicate public preference for upgrading and modernizing park infrastructure such as boat launches, campsites, washrooms and showers. This is consistent with other surveys conducted at campgrounds throughout the province.

Primitive walk-in or boat-in campsites are not available in the park at present.

Guidelines:

1) **Existing transient and seasonal camping facilities will be maintained at status quo until increased visitor use warrants expansion.**

2) Upgrading and modernizing of washroom facilities with provision for showers will be undertaken at Camper's Cove initially. Facilities will be improved as funding permits.

3) The demand for a walk-in tent camping opportunity at Pioneer Bay will be evaluated by designating a portion of the day-use area for this purpose.

4) Hugo Bay campground will remain closed indefinitely. The options of providing a business opportunity for a private entrepreneur, or of making the area available for institutional group use, will be explored. If Hugo Bay remains closed the modern washroom/shower building could be moved to Camper's Cove as part of the modernizing program.

5) The development of hike-in and/or boat-in primitive camping facilities along the east and north shores will be evaluated (these sites could also function as shore-lunch spots).

5.2.2 Day Use

Day-use opportunities exist at Sunset Beach, Pumphouse Point, Camper's Cove and Pioneer Bay. Facilities include beach areas, boat launches, picnicking sites and play equipment. Although exact traffic counts are not available, day-use levels are significant. Local residents of The Pas and surrounding area account for the majority of day use.

The potential to expand day-use facilities is limited, therefore, increased pressure will necessitate redesign of existing sites to maximize space for day-use activities.

Guidelines:

1) **Additional day-use areas will not be developed until the design capacity for the existing sites has been reached.**

2) **A redevelopment plan for Sunset Beach day-use area will be prepared as a priority.**

5.2.3 Group Use

Two designated group-use sites are assigned to the boy scouts and girl guides. The current demand for long-term sites has been met and the groups are operating within the confines of their leases.

Periodic requests for short-term group-use sites have been received from various organized groups. To date, only the Manitoba Forestry Association site has been approved. The M.F.A. site will be located in association with the recently established Provincial Forest Nursery near the former site of Guy Hill School.

Guidelines:

1) **An update of site plans for each long-term group-use area will be initiated to ensure future development proposals are compatible with surrounding uses.**

2) **An organized group day-use/camping area will be designated at the Guy Hill School site. The area will be developed for groups such as the Manitoba Forestry Association to promote outdoor education and environmental research. The Forestry Nursery and a wildlife viewing trail will be highlighted for visitors. Since use will focus on the forestry site, development will not impact lake resources.**

5.2.4 Trails

Summer:

The 0.8 kilometre Caves Self-Guided Interpretive Trail is the only designated trail in Clearwater Lake Provincial Park. Public use of the trail indicates a demand for high quality interpretive trails. User surveys have also indicated interest in hiking trails. Requests for designated off-road vehicle (O.R.V.) areas have been received from campers and cottagers.

Guidelines:

1) **Potential for a forestry orientated nature trail associated with the newly established nursery will be evaluated in conjunction with Forestry Branch.**

2) **A 16 to 24 kilometre hiking/interpretive trail originating from Hugo Bay area to the waterfalls between Clearwater and Cormorant Lakes will be developed. Trail location will utilize a variety of terrain and landscapes to provide scenic diversity. Primitive campsites should be sited on the lakeshore to capture the superb sunsets. A future loop trail expansion along the north shore will be considered if demand warrants.**

3) **Off-road vehicle use in the form of all-terrain cycles will be confined to the cross-country ski trail system during the summer months.**

Winter:

The existing 80 kilometre (50 mile) groomed snowmobile trail system is confined to the south and west portions of the park. The west side trail functions as a linkage between The Pas and Rocky Lake. Destination snowmobiling occurs to the cottage subdivision and to a warm-up cabin located in the northwest section of the park. Trail use has been low to moderate and expansion is not warranted at this time.

A cross-country ski trail system of five loops totalling 16 kilometres (10 miles) is groomed and marked during the season. Trail maintenance has been a co-operative venture between Parks Branch and The Pas Ski Club. The trails are receiving high levels of use. An active ski club in The Pas promoted the facilities through special events such as loppets and family races. The club has requested the trail system be expanded to provide additional length and variety.

Guidelines:

1) **The existing snowmobile trail system will be groomed and maintained on an as required basis. Additional development will occur as demand warrants.**

2) **All-terrain cycles will be allowed to use all designated snowmobile trails in the park. All-terrain cycle operation will be limited to the same period of operation as snowmobiles.**

3) **The cross-country ski trail system will be expanded towards Hugo Bay and from Hugo Bay Campground northward along the east shore.**

The winter recreation area facilities include a log chalet, ice skating rink and trail and a toboggan run. The area functions as a focal point for winter recreation and is well used by the public. Facility expansion may be required at a future date.

Guidelines:

1) **An as-built plan of the facility will be prepared.**

2) **A long-term development plan indicating design elements and infrastructure will be prepared.**

5.2.5 Visitor Information

Motorists travelling north along P.T.H. 10 to Clearwater Lake or the Flin Flon area cannot currently avail themselves of a variety of promotional information. Providing public information will increase awareness of facilities and features associated with northern parks. Clearwater Lake Provincial Park is a good example of where increased public information would attract visitors and increase appreciation of the park's special features.

Guidelines:

1) **The existing information pull-off will be improved. High quality text and graphics will highlight facilities and services in Clearwater and other northern parks.**

2) **An information program consisting of signs and brochures outlining sport fishery management objectives and limnological characteristics of Clearwater Lake will be prepared. Program research and development will be done in a co-operation cost-shared basis with Fisheries Branch.**

3) **Three full colour (aqua colour scheme) interpretive signs identifying the significance of the water quality and lake trout sport fishery will be placed at Sunset Beach, Pioneer Bay and Camper's Cove. This project proposal will be a priority.**

4) **The Ministry of Transport will be approached to determine the feasibility of erecting a promotion display or information booth at The Pas Airport. Information would highlight natural and cultural features and recreational facilities in Clearwater Lake Provincial Park as well as other northern parks.**

5.2.6 Federal Lands

Development of Federal land parcels associated with the park will have direct effect on the natural resources and recreational facilities.

Guidelines:

1) **The type and level of developments proposed by The Pas Indian Band should complement the established management guidelines for the park. These guidelines will be forwarded to the Band to encourage an ongoing information exchange.**

5.3 Operations and Maintenance

5.3.1 Private Lands/Enforcement

The number of private land holdings and regulations governing same cause administration and enforcement concerns to the public and Parks Branch.

Guidelines:

1) **Standards set forth in The Provincial Park Lands Act and Regulations will be enforced by Regional Services staff. Compliance with the regulations is essential to maintain standards in the park.**

The practice of leaving winter ice fishing shacks along the shore of Clearwater Lake for use as quasi-cottages during the summer months is a concern.

Guidelines:

1) **Ice fishing shacks are permitted for the winter fishing season only and will be removed from the park when not in use. Regional Services staff will actively enforce this guideline to ensure compliance and eliminate the potential for this practice becoming widespread.**

5.3.2 Prospector Maintenance Compound

The maintenance yard at Prospector, located at the junction of P.T.H. 10 and P.R. 287, is the first park facility visitors view as they enter Clearwater Lake Provincial Park. The yard is a visual eyesore and should be buffered from public view.

Guidelines:

1) **Landscaping will be done to screen the maintenance yard from public view.**

2) **The maintenance yard will be cleaned up and maintained at a high standard.**

5.3.3 Park Signing

The existing internal park signing for cottage subdivisions, private land and clubs is inadequate. Poor signing causes the visitor difficulty in locating sites and does not develop a standard image across the Provincial Park System.

Guidelines:

1) **A signing plan will be developed for the park.**

2) **Guidelines for receiving signing requests from park users will be identified and circulated to all concerned parties. Parks Branch will retain the final approving authority for signing requests.**

5.3.4 Park Roads

The existing road network in Clearwater Park is in need of upgrading. The 1981 campground survey results indicate that 20% of the campers at Camper's Cove and 35% of the campers using Hugo Bay felt dust control was a problem on park roads. Potholes were also listed as a road problem from 35% of the campers at Hugo Bay (highest in the province) and 10% at Camper's Cove. This data supports the fact that access roads into major recreational facilities should be improved.

Guidelines:

1) **A system of road upgrading and improvements will be established. Priorities will be the access roads to Sunset Beach, Camper's Cove Campground and the Pioneer Bay area.**

5.4 Fishing Lodges

A total of three tourist lodge operations are located along the south shore of the park and are road accessible. Evergreen Lodge has 13 units with a bed capacity of 32 persons. Travel Manitoba has given Evergreen Lodge a two star rating. The lodge is operated on a year-round basis and caters to fishermen and hunters. Carpenter's Clearwater Lodge also operates year-round. The lodge has 12 units for a bed capacity of 40 persons. It has been given a four star rating by Travel Manitoba. Both Carpenter's Clearwater and Evergreen Lodges are open during the winter season and are used by ice fishermen and snowmobilers. The New Vickery Lodge is operated during the open water season (May to October). It has 10 units for a bed capacity of 40 persons and a three star rating.

All of the lodges have been operated since the inception of the park and are patronized by visitors from across Canada and the United States. Each of the lodges maintain quality standards of operation.

Guidelines:

1) **All new development proposals will be evaluated based on water quality and fisheries capacity. At this time, research data indicates the lake cannot support additional development which will increase water-based recreational activities such as fishing and boating.**

2) **The existing lodges will be encouraged to maintain and improve the quality of facilities and services through upgrading and refurbishing in the future.**

3) **Lodge owners will be requested to participate in and promote the benefits of a catch and release program for lake trout.**

4) **In order to diversify the tourism market, lodge owners will be encouraged to promote their facilities to non-fishing clientele.**

5.5 Forestry

Three companies hold timber sales on areas within Clearwater Lake Provincial Park (Figure 2). These blocks are scattered throughout the park with the largest areas along the southeastern and eastern shores managed by Spruce Products. Annual quotas are granted to the operators by Forestry Branch and Parks Branch. Since 1966, harvesting operations in the park have been infrequent. All three of the operators have been cutting in recent years but the available volumes within the existing timber sales will allow for continued harvest well into the early 1990's.

Guidelines:

1) **Additional timber sale areas will not be permitted in the park.**

2) **Existing timber sales will be accommodated where they are consistent with natural resource and recreation management objectives.**

3) **Forestry Branch will be requested to produce a five year management plan. The plan will identify future annual allowable cuts and total volumes of merchantable timber within the existing timber sales.**

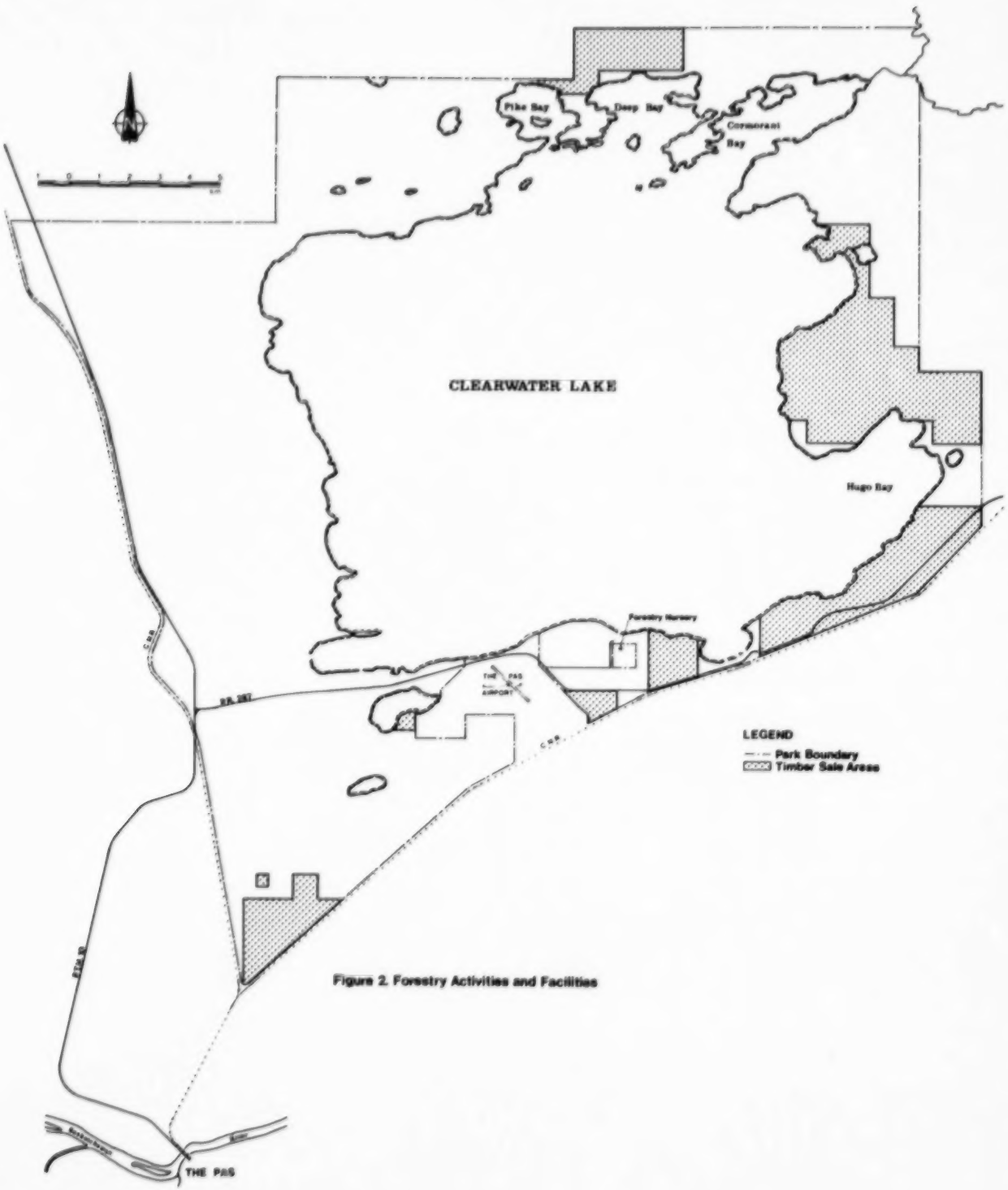


Figure 2. Forestry Activities and Facilities

4) Since there are currently no Parks staff in The Pas, all matters related to forestry will be precleared through the Northwestern Regional Manager. Operational guidelines will be established by the Parks Branch work permit.

5) The Provincial Nursery programs will be supported by Parks Branch. Reforestation programs will be encouraged and promoted.

6) Boundaries/buffers will be established around sensitive features, along roadways and around Clearwater Lake.

7) Where feasible, cutting practices will be managed to enhance wildlife habitat and viewability.

8) Forest stand improvements (e.g. mistletoe control, thinning) will be initiated on an as-required basis to maintain healthy stands in developed areas.

9) A modest fuelwood harvest program will be conducted periodically to coincide with forest stand improvements.

6.0 INTERIM LAND ALLOCATION

A land allocation map (Figure 3) has been prepared to summarize guideline statements presented herein. On the basis of existing information, three interim land use zones are presented: intensive recreation zone, commercial/recreation zone (multiple use) and extensive recreation zone. In addition to these major zones, two Special Areas have been identified: the Cormorant Rock nesting site and the waterfalls between Clearwater and Cormorant Lakes.

The intensive recreation zone covers approximately 30% of the park and encompasses built-up areas. Recreational facilities such as lodges, cottages, private dwellings, campgrounds and day-use areas will continue to operate as in the past with specific infrastructure upgrading and expansion as identified in the Interim Management Guidelines. Overall circulation patterns will not be altered within the zone. Commercial resource activities and sport hunting will be restricted in this zone.

A commercial/recreation zone amounting to 40% of the park has been designated along the east and west shores of Clearwater Lake. The area offers opportunities for a variety of motorized and non-motorized recreation. Activities permissible within the zone include hunting, picnicking, hiking, remote camping, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. Forestry is also a permitted use in these areas.

An extensive recreation zone comprising of 30% of the park has been identified along the north shore of Clearwater Lake Provincial Park. The zone will offer nature-orientated recreation such as backcountry hiking and camping and act as a buffer between the intensive use zone to the south and the

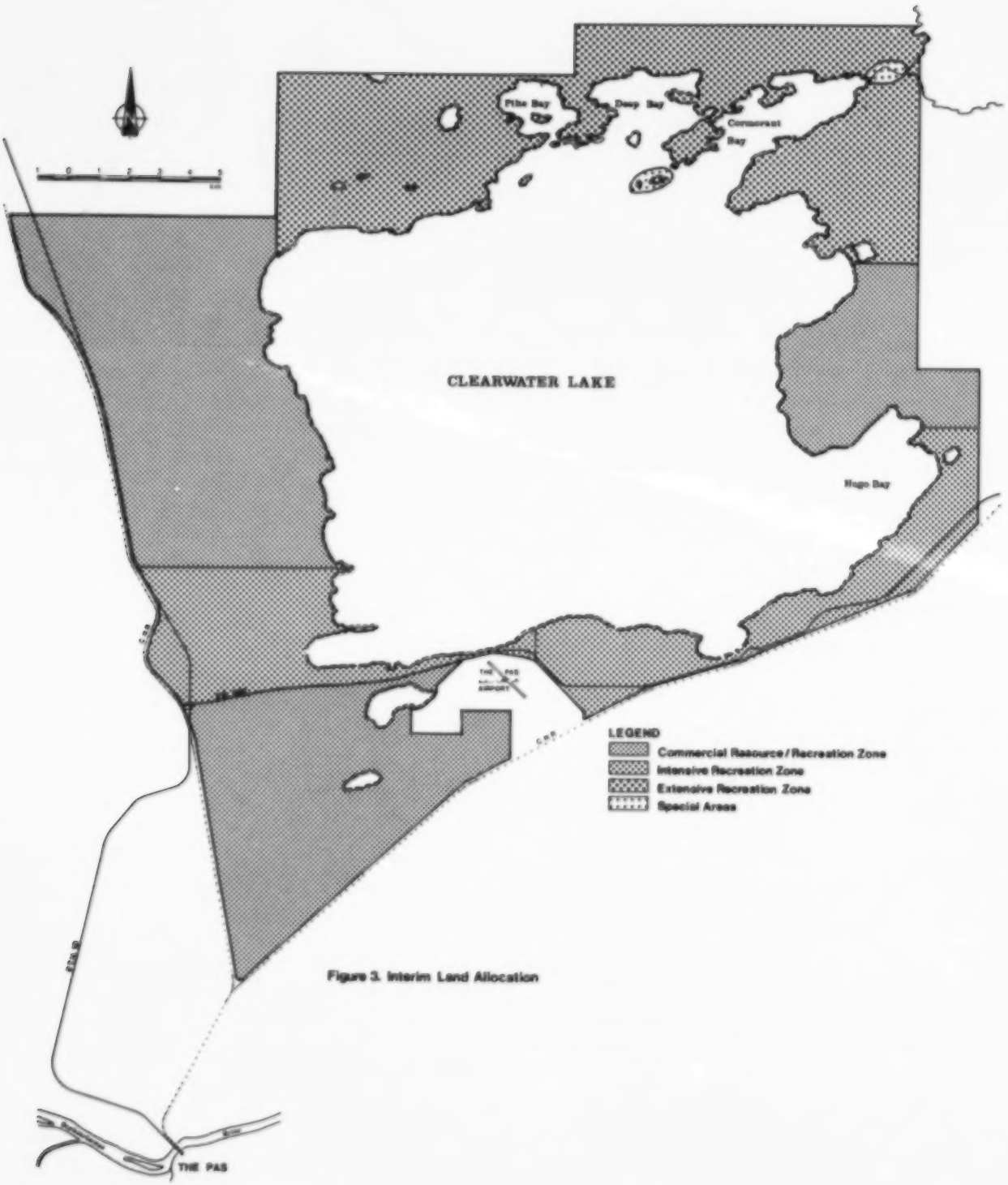


Figure 3. Interim Land Allocation

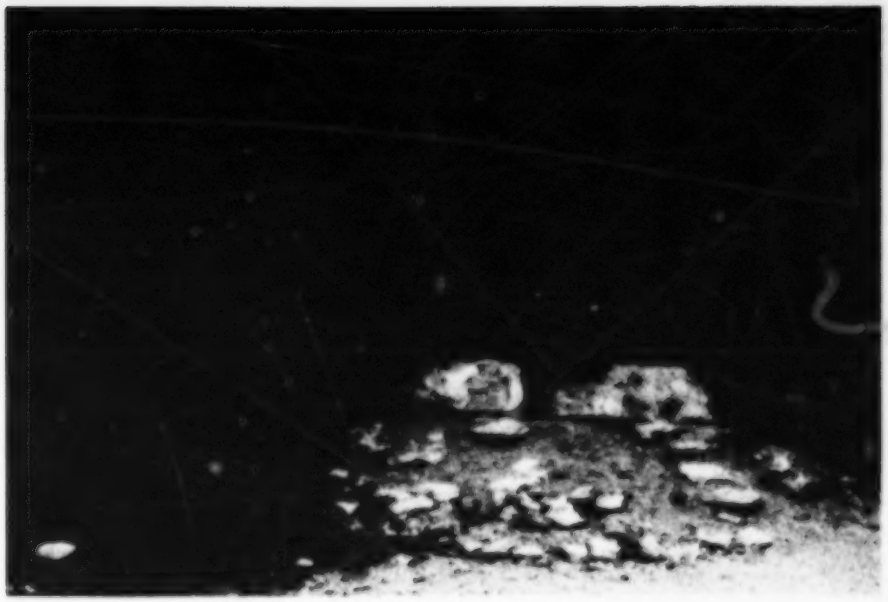
commercial/recreation zone to the east and west. Forestry operations are not anticipated in the zone during the life of these guidelines.

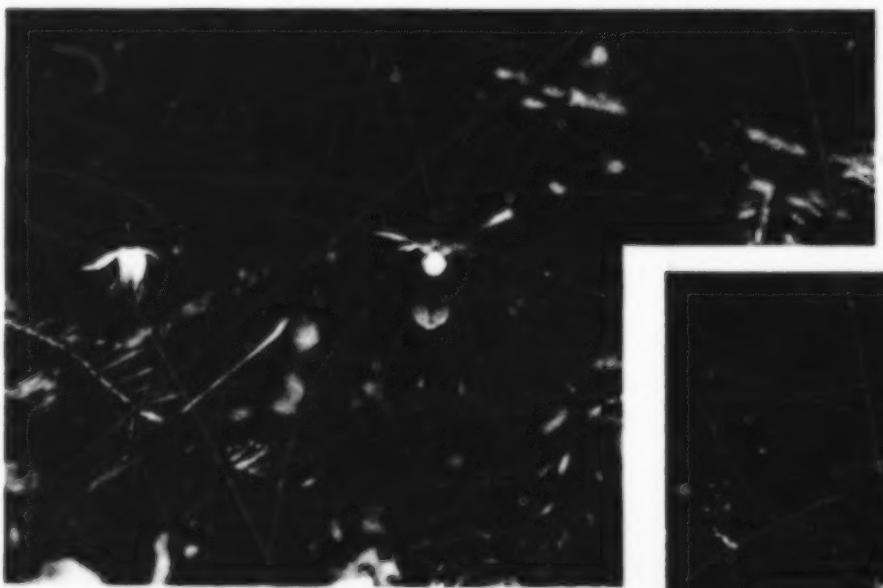
The Special Areas identified in the park warrant protection because they exhibit biological and geological resources of provincial significance. Recreational development at these sites will not be permitted. Each of the areas will be retained in its natural state, however, on-site interpretive facilities may be provided.

APPENDIX I

CHARACTER STUDY

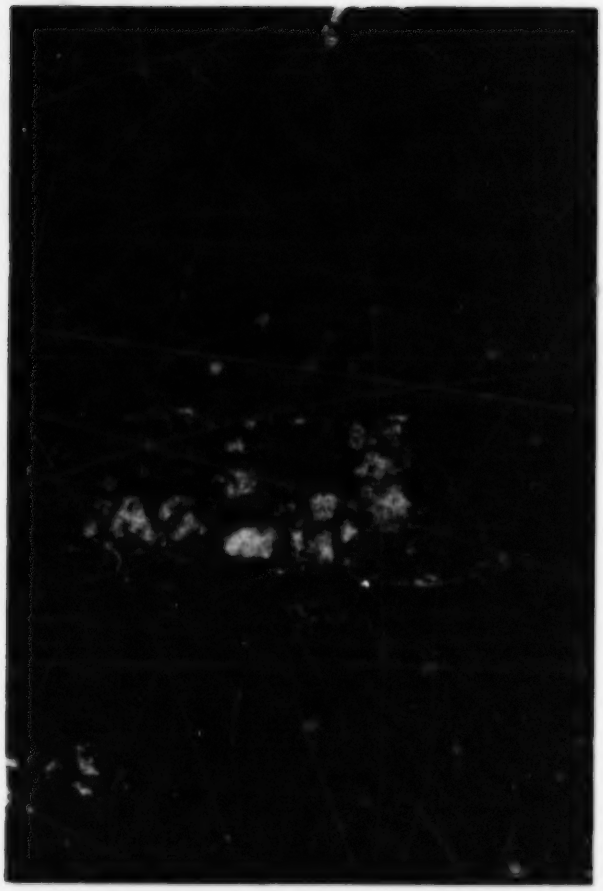
The Caves Trail
Entrance Sign





Trail Sign and
Decking

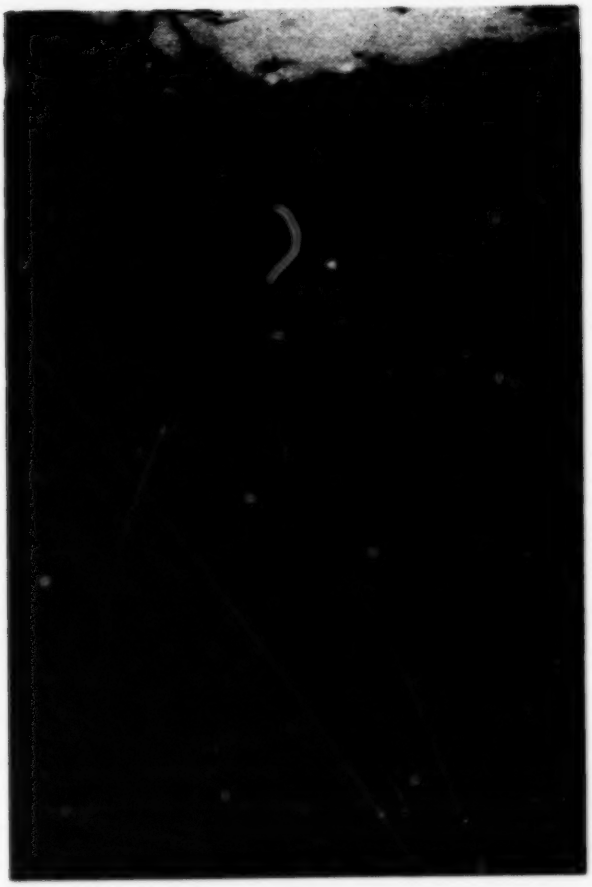
Provincial Forest Nursery
Entrance Sign



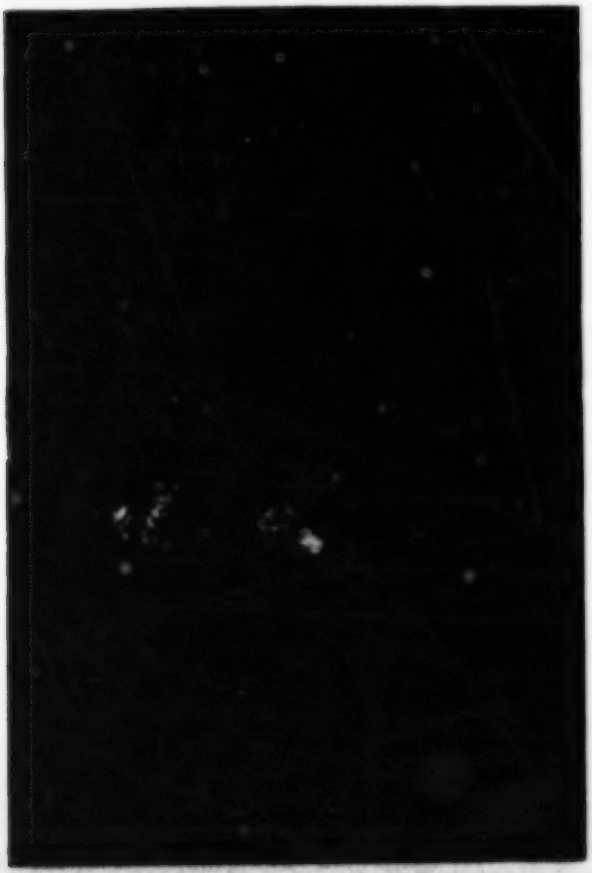
Nursery
Greenhouses

Pumphouse Point
Fishing
Access Site

Evergreen
Lodge



Clearwater Lake Sunset



Dolomite Rock Outcrop
Along Caves Trail